

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3102**

June 22, 2021

Vice President Kamala Harris  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Vice President Harris,

I write to follow-up on my May 24, 2021 letter asking you to visit the southern border of New Mexico to see the current border crisis firsthand and my request to travel with you to Mexico and Guatemala to have true bipartisan discussions on how to secure our border and prevent illegal immigration.

While I was disappointed you chose not to respond to me, I want to reiterate my offer for you to visit the border with me and hear directly from hardworking New Mexicans about how your border policies are harming them and threatening their families and livelihoods. May I also suggest that you visit the border with former President Donald J. Trump and Governor Greg Abbott during their planned trip in late June. President Trump can provide you an in-depth briefing on the programs that led to the most secure border in decades.

Such a discussion with President Trump is even more pressing given the unprecedented crisis that your administration's policies have created at our southern border. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) encountered a 20-year monthly high of 180,034 illegal immigrants along the southern border in May.<sup>1</sup> This is larger than the population of any city in my congressional district. Since the beginning of 2021, CBP has encountered 929,868 illegal immigrants along the southern border.<sup>2</sup> This is more than double the number of apprehensions for the entirety of FY2020 and more than FY2019 totals in just five months.<sup>3</sup> CBP has likewise seized more fentanyl this fiscal year than FY2020.<sup>4</sup> Such lax border policies have facilitated the trafficking of drugs that threatens thousands of Americans. From May 2019 to May 2020, drugs, mostly trafficked from Mexico, killed more than 81,000 Americans.<sup>5</sup> My hope is that a discussion with

---

<sup>1</sup> CBP, Southwest Land Border Encounters, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>; Nick Miroff, "May was the busiest month along Mexico border since Biden took office, CBP figures show," *The Washington Post*, June 9, 2021, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/may-was-busiest-month-along-mexico-boder-since-biden-took-office-cbp-figures-show/2021/06/09/14a87178-c96b-11eb-93fa-9053a95eb9f2\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/may-was-busiest-month-along-mexico-boder-since-biden-took-office-cbp-figures-show/2021/06/09/14a87178-c96b-11eb-93fa-9053a95eb9f2_story.html).

<sup>2</sup> CBP, Southwest Land Border Encounters, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>.

<sup>3</sup> Philip Bump, "The surge in border apprehensions in 2021, visualized," *The Washington Post*, June 10, 2021, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/06/10/surge-border-apprehensions-2021-visualized/>; CBP, Southwest Land Border Encounters, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

<sup>4</sup> CBP, Drug Seizure Statistics, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/drug-seizure-statistics>.

<sup>5</sup> Amanda Jackson, "Border agents have seized more fentanyl in the last 7 months than the year before, CBP says," *CNN*, May 18, 2021, <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/18/us/fentanyl-seizures-customs-border-trnd/index.html>.

Border Patrol professionals in New Mexico, and former President Trump while at the border in Texas, may help your administration draw on some commonsense policy solutions that worked for the previous administration.

Such policy solutions would include reinstating the Migrant Protection Protocols and Asylum Cooperation Agreements that helped dramatically reduce illegal immigration; using Title 42 restrictions to expel all illegal immigrants during the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to plague Mexico and Central America; and, finishing the border barrier system to stop deadly drugs from entering our nation.

Finally, I would like to know what specific metrics and assurances you were given on your visit to Mexico and Guatemala to ensure that those countries will cooperate with U.S. efforts to reduce illegal immigration and drug trafficking into the United States.

Therefore, I ask the following questions to gauge Mexico and Guatemala's cooperation:

- Did the President of Mexico and the President of Guatemala agree to deploy additional military or police to prevent illegal migration and drug trafficking across their borders? If so, how many?
- Has Mexico or Guatemala agreed to accept more Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) repatriation flights of those ordered to be removed for immigration violations from the United States? If so, how many?
- Has Mexico or Guatemala agreed to strengthen its visa system to prevent extra-continental migration through their countries? If so, what exact measures were agreed to by the two nations?
- Did Mexico or Guatemala promise to fight cartel involvement in human smuggling and human trafficking? What metrics will be used to define progress in this fight against human trafficking and human smuggling?
- Did Mexico agree to resume the Migrant Protection Protocols?
- Did Guatemala agree to resume the Asylum Cooperation Agreements?

I ask that you respond to these questions by July 16, 2021, by 5 PM.

Without such cooperation, your trip will likely prove to be much of the same diplomatic wrangling that sends American taxpayers' money to Mexico and Central America without any meaningful and visible benefits for the American people.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. I look forward to your response and traveling with you to the southern border in New Mexico.

Sincerely,



Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress